

CONSTANCE EAGER

OCTOBER 12, 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BILBO, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1225]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1225) granting a pension to Constance Eager, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Mrs. Constance Eager is the widow of John M. Eager, late surgeon, United States Public Health Service, who died August 17, 1916, as the result of disease contracted in line of duty. The service record of John M. Eager is as follows:

Surgeon John M. Eager was born in New York State April 14, 1862; appointed and commissioned from Pennsylvania as an assistant surgeon in the United States Public Health Service (U. S. Marine Hospital Service) February 16, 1891, and died at Naples, Italy, in line of duty August 17, 1916. He served a total of 25 years and 6 months in the various grades as follows:

Assistant surgeon from February 16, 1891, to March 25, 1895.

Passed assistant surgeon from March 26, 1895, to December 18, 1907.

Surgeon from December 1907 to August 17, 1916.

By special detail he served in the Office of the Surgeon General at Washington, D. C., as Assistant Surgeon General from March 20, 1905 to June 15, 1909.

The assignments of Dr. Eager to service stations were as follows:

United States Marine Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, from February 20, 1891, to March 1, 1893.

United States Marine Hospital, Key West, Fla., from March 18, 1893, to May 16, 1894.

United States Marine Hospital, New Orleans, La., from May 16, 1894, to May 12, 1895.

United States Quarantine Station, Southport, N. C., from July 12, 1895, to May 12, 1898.

Relief station, Galveston, Tex., from May 12, 1898, to December 23, 1898.

Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C., from December 23, 1898, to March 22, 1899.

United States Marine Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, from March 22, 1899, to April 28, 1899.

United States Marine Hospital, Detroit, Mich., from April 28, 1899, to November 27, 1899.

United States Marine Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio, from November 27, 1899, to May 19, 1900.

Relief station, Norfolk, Va., from May 19, 1900, to November 30, 1900.

Naples, Italy, from March 25, 1901, to March 24, 1905.

Public Health Service Bureau, Washington, D. C., from March 24, 1905, to June 15, 1909.

United States Quarantine Station, Portland, Maine, from June 24, 1909, to May 17, 1913.

Naples, Italy, from August 17, 1913, to August 17, 1916.

In addition to the above regular assignments, Dr. Eager performed special duties in conformity with numerous departmental and bureau orders. These included quarantine activities at United States Quarantine Station at Ship Island, Miss., Cape Charles, Va., and Providence, R. I. While at Galveston he made inspections of the Texas Quarantine Station, inspected sites for the location of refugee camps on account of yellow fever, and reported on conditions work with special reference to the occurrence of this disease in Texas at the time.

By President's orders he was detailed to Naples, Italy, in 1901 on account of the threatened presence of plague, to Palermo, Italy, and Marseille, France, in 1911 on account of epidemics of cholera in those and other Mediterranean ports, and to Naples, Italy, in 1913 to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States. In June 1913 he was designated by the Secretary of State as the representative of the United States on the International Committee charged with the organization and conduct of the International Office of Hygiene, Paris.

As a result of his investigations and experience Dr. Eager made many important reports on cholera, yellow fever, plague, and pellagra. The last of these reports dealt with the diet of agricultural laborers in Italy in relation to pellagra.

In March 7, 1916, Dr. Eager reported his failing eyesight, and consultation of Dr. de Berardinis, professor of ophthalmology, University of Naples, who after thorough investigation diagnosed optic neuritis (popillitis), the same being complicated with local hemorrhages and accompanied by retinitis. He also consulted Dr. Sergio Pausini, Professor of Practice of Medicine, University of Naples. Dr. Pausini made a most thorough investigation of the case associating with himself for the purpose of securing precise laboratory examinations. Dr. de Giaxa, Professor of Hygiene, University of Naples, and Dr. Ayelle, Professor of Urology, University of Naples.

"Albuminuria with the presence of granular casts was found to exist and mild uraemic symptoms supervened."

In the opinion of the consultants the uraemic condition was caused by an acute nephritis due to infection by the bacillus influenzae, the influenza having been acquired in line of duty at Naples where the disease was then endemic. He never recovered from this illness, and died August 17, 1916.

Mrs. Eager, aged 71 years, whose address is 601 Colonial Avenue, Norfolk, Va., is dependent upon her children for a livelihood.

In view of her husband's long period of service and the fact that he died as the result of disease contracted in line of duty, your committee recommends that Mrs. Constance Eager be granted a pension of \$50 a month. Pension would not be paid for any period prior to the date of enactment of this act.

